

Mr. Speaker, I also want to take a moment to recognize the 3,000 active duty and civilian personnel at Indian Head who work and collaborate every day to develop and deploy technologies to improve the safety and effectiveness of the men and women serving in harm's way. Since 1890, this facility has proven to be an Energetics center of excellence for the Department of Defense (Navy) and I thank those men and women in uniform, along with their families and the civilian employees, for their outstanding service to the Indian Head Division and to the United States of America.

Again, I urge my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the members of the Reactive Materials Team at Indian Head on being recognized as the Navy's top scientists and engineers and in honoring all the men and women at the Indian Head Division of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Maryland for their continued excellence and commitment to our nation's success.

### HONORING THE LIFE OF BYRON WAITE LEYDECKER

#### HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember my friend Byron Leydecker, who passed away on May 12, 2011.

Byron was a good friend, and he was a true champion on behalf of the rivers and fisheries of California. Thanks to Byron's passion and determined advocacy, the Trinity River is today in better shape than at any time since the 1960s.

Byron lived his life with passion. Passion for what he believed and for his friends. He expected a lot of those of us in public service: he would let you know of his gratitude when you met his expectations and his disappointment when we disappointed him. At the end of the day, Byron was fun.

He will be missed by all his friends in California and across the country, and generations of Californians will benefit from his dedication to the Trinity and his tireless belief in the fundamental and lasting value of a healthy river.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD this San Francisco Chronicle article about Byron Leydecker's life and many accomplishments, and I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering Byron and in expressing our condolences to his children and grandchildren.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, May 26, 2011]

BYRON LEYDECKER, FORMER MARIN  
SUPERVISOR, DIES  
(By Peter Fimrite)

Byron Waite Leydecker, a former bank executive and Marin County supervisor who helped stop development in the Marin Headlands and, for nearly two decades, drove the restoration and protection of his beloved Trinity River, died May 12 in his home in Mill Valley.

Mr. Leydecker, who was 83, had been battling lung and liver cancer.

Mr. Leydecker was born in Oakland on Aug. 28, 1927. He served briefly on the battleship Iowa at the end of World War II before

enrolling in Stanford University, where he graduated in 1950 with a degree in economics. During the Korean War, he served as a public information officer in the U.S. Army in Washington.

He worked briefly as a securities analyst and in 1953 got a job at Chico's Anglo National Bank, which later became Crocker Bank. By the time he left, he had become the bank's youngest-ever vice president. In 1962 he helped found Redwood Bank, where he was chairman of the board and chief executive officer until the bank was sold in 1981.

In 1963, Gov. Edmund G. "Pat" Brown appointed Mr. Leydecker to the Marin County Board of Supervisors. He won re-election in 1964. As a supervisor he fought a proposed development known as Marinello, which would have allowed construction of 20,000 homes in the Marin Headlands.

Never shy about speaking his mind, Mr. Leydecker could be a gruff taskmaster. He may have sometimes lacked diplomacy, but he was amazingly adept at getting what he wanted, said his friends and colleagues.

He started racing cars in the 1970s and, driving a modified Porsche, won the 1977 Northern California championship of the prestigious Sports Car Club of America circuit.

The construction of Trinity Dam and Lewiston Dam in the 1960s and diversions of water as part of the Central Valley Project were sore spots to Mr. Leydecker, who had fished the Trinity in the 1930s when it was nearly pristine.

He decided to take action in 1991, when a channel improvement project by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation choked the Trinity River with silt. It was so bad that Mr. Leydecker got stuck in the mud on a side channel while he was fly fishing. "He was madder than a wet hen," said his friend Tom Stokely, the water policy analyst for the California Water Impact Network. "He called me up and he must have yelled at me for a half hour. Then he said, 'I've got money. I can hire a lawyer.' It was the beginning of a long and wonderful relationship."

Mr. Leydecker forced the bureau to stop digging along the river and in 1992 founded the nonprofit Friends of the Trinity River. The group fought to establish minimum annual water flows, improve fish habitat and enhance the riparian ecosystem.

"He was an authentic champion for rivers and fish, but especially the Trinity River," said Assemblyman Jared Huffman, D-San Rafael, who chairs the Assembly Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Mr. Leydecker, who always wore a pressed button-down shirt with blue jeans and cowboy boots, fought until the very end for Trinity River improvements and against water diversions in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta.

"He gave so much of his time and effort that it would be remiss as his friend for me not to continue that effort," said Rep. George Miller, D-Martinez, who once spent several days hiking and rafting the river with Mr. Leydecker. "He had a sense of romance about big rivers and what they bring to a society."

He is survived by sons John Leydecker of San Rafael and Mark Leydecker of Aspen, Colo.; daughters Caroline "Lama Palden" Alioto of San Rafael and Criss Troast of Nantucket, Mass.; and eight grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held June 5 at 3 p.m. at Marin Art & Garden Center, 30 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., in Ross. Donations may be sent to the California Water Impact Network, 808 Romero Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, CA 93108.

RECOGNIZING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS—DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

#### HON. JERRY MCNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Disabled American Veterans (DAV)—Department of California on the occasion of its 90th anniversary. Founded in 1921, the DAV—Department of California has worked tirelessly to improve the lives of service-connected disabled veterans and their families.

Service officers from the DAV—Department of California offer critical support to our state's service-connected disabled veterans. The service officers—many of whom are disabled veterans themselves—help veterans apply for disability compensation as well as the pension, health, and education benefits they've earned. They also volunteer their time at Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities and rehabilitation centers, and they help disabled veterans find jobs and secure scholarships to pay for college.

In the area I represent, the Disabled American Veterans George E. Morey Chapter 59 hosts an annual Memorial Day ceremony in Lodi to honor the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Another local chapter in my district, the Disabled American Veterans Al Jordan Chapter 15, provides food coupons to disabled veterans during the holiday season. This group also focuses on community outreach and awareness by holding an annual picnic in Stockton for disabled veterans and their families, an event which I have attended.

The Disabled American Veterans—Department of California's work is just as important today as when the organization was first established 90 years ago. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Disabled American Veterans—Department of California on the occasion of its 90th anniversary for its exceptional service to our Nation's disabled veterans.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. SIMPSON. Mr. Speaker, on Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass H.R. 1407, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of Living-Adjustment Act, I was unable to vote.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

### HONORING ALLAN ALFRED VOIGT

#### HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 3, 2011*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Allan